

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A bracket in combination with an airbag subassembly, said airbag subassembly comprising an inflator and a support structure which forms a portion of a steering wheel subassembly, said bracket comprising:

a base;

an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of said base and that is configured to receive said inflator of said airbag subassembly; and

at least two retention members that are bent to form an angle with and extend from said base into the inflator opening, said retention members being approximately perpendicular to said base,

wherein said retention members are formed integral with said base,

wherein said retention members are curled in shape to form a surface defining a cavity extending perpendicular to said base,

wherein each of said curled retention members comprises a curled inner surface and a curled outer surface, a retention opening which penetrates said curled inner surface and said curled outer surface and communicates with said cavity extending from said base, and a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface defined by side edges of said retention opening, and

wherein said curled retention members are inserted into apertures defined by the support structure.

2. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1, wherein said inflator opening is provided between said retention members.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1, wherein said retention members each include an insertion point and a lip, said insertion point extending a greater distance from said base than said lip.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1, wherein said cavity extending from said base is at least partially located between said first and second engagement surfaces.

8. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 1, wherein said surface includes a first leg and a second leg; and

wherein said second leg is angled relative to said first leg.

9. (Previously Presented) The combination of claim 8,
wherein said first leg defines said first engagement surface within said retention opening
and said second leg defines said second engagement surface within said retention opening.

10.-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a bracket of an airbag subassembly,
said airbag subassembly comprising an airbag module, an inflator and a support structure,
wherein said bracket retains said airbag module on said support structure, said method
comprising the steps of:

providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;
defining an inflator opening in said base, said inflator opening being positioned in an
internal portion of said base and being configured to receive said inflator of said airbag
subassembly;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening;
stamping said metal sheet to remove portions of said metal sheet, including portions
defined by said inflator opening;

bending said retention members to form an angle between said retention members and
said base, such that said retention members are formed integral with said base; and

wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of bending said retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base and curling said retention members to form a surface defining a cavity extending perpendicular to said metal sheet,

wherein each of said curled retention members comprises a curled inner surface and a curled outer surface, a retention opening which penetrates said curled inner surface and said curled outer surface and communicates with said cavity extending from said metal sheet, and a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface defined by side edges of said retention opening.

31. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a bracket of an airbag subassembly, said airbag subassembly comprising an airbag module, an inflator and a support structure, wherein said bracket retains said airbag module on said support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;

defining an inflator opening in said base, said inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of said base and being configured to receive said inflator of said airbag subassembly;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening;

stamping said metal sheet to remove portions of said metal sheet, including portions defined by said inflator opening;

bending said retention members to form an angle between said retention members and said base, such that said retention members are formed integral with said base; and

wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of curling said retention members to form shaped retention members,

wherein each of said curled retention members comprises a curled inner surface and a curled outer surface, a retention opening which penetrates said curled inner surface and said curled outer surface and communicates with a cavity extending from said base, and a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface defined by side edges of said retention opening.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said step of bending said retention members includes the step of bending said shaped retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base after said step of curling said retention members.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a bracket of an airbag subassembly, said airbag subassembly comprising an air module, an inflator and a support structure, wherein said bracket retains said airbag module on said support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;

defining an inflator opening in said base, said inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of said base and being configured to receive said inflator of said airbag subassembly;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening or that extend outwardly from said base;

stamping said metal sheet to remove portions of said metal sheet, including portions defined by said inflator opening;

curling said retention members to include a curved interface at a portion of said retention members that contact said base; and

bending said retention members to form an angle between said retention members and said base, such that said retention members are formed integral with said base,

wherein each of said curled retention members comprises a curled inner surface and a curled outer surface, a retention opening which penetrates said curled inner surface and said curled outer surface and communicates with a cavity extending from said base, and a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface defined by side edges of said retention opening.